Working from home remains popular but less than in 2021

Media Release

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Source: Characteristics of Employment, Australia, August 2023

Working from home is still more common among Australians after the COVID-19 pandemic, but less than it was two years ago, according to new data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Working from home and other arrangements

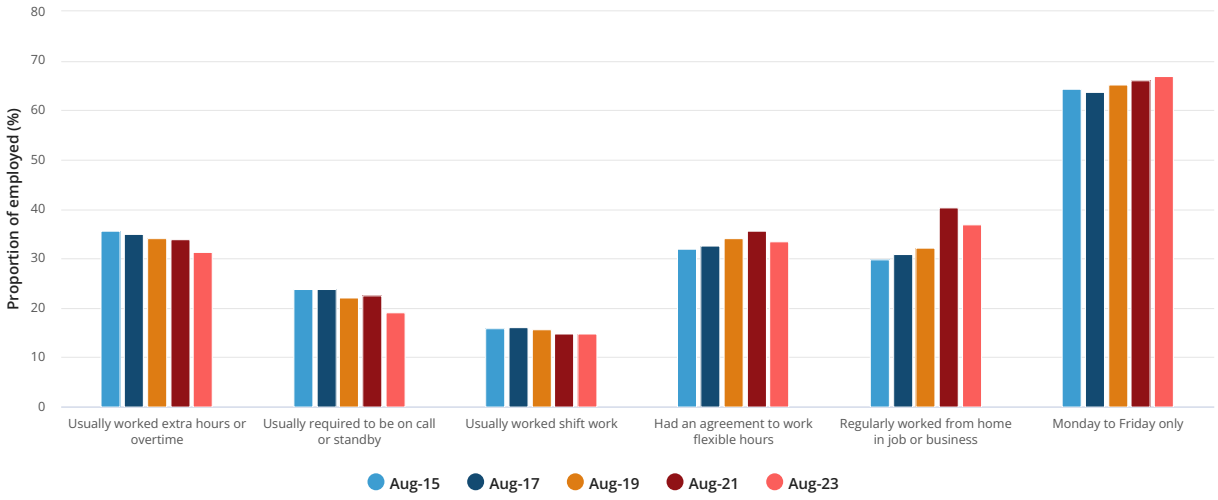
Bjorn Jarvis, ABS head of labour statistics, said: "Prior to the pandemic, the percentage of employed people working from home regularly had been steadily increasing by around a percentage point every two years. It jumped by around eight percentage points between August 2019 and August 2021, from around 32 to 40 per cent, when the restrictions around the Delta variant were in effect across much of South-East Australia."

"Our latest data, for August 2023, shows that 37 per cent of Australians work from home regularly. While this was down from around 40 per cent in 2021, it was still five percentage points above the pre-pandemic level, showing that many of the changes in behaviour and working arrangements have continued beyond the pandemic."

Working from home continued to be more common in some occupations. Close to two-thirds (60 per cent) of managers and professionals were doing it regularly in August 2023, compared with around one in five (22 per cent) across other occupations.

"Interestingly, while the pandemic has seen a large shift in people working from home, there haven't been similarly large changes in other arrangements like working flexible hours. Apart from working from home, most other arrangements have generally followed pre-pandemic trends," Mr Jarvis said.

Working arrangements



Further details can be found in [Working arrangements (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release) available on [www.abs.gov.au (http://www.abs.gov.au/)](http://www.abs.gov.au/) .

Employee earnings

In August 2023, half of all employees earned at least $1,300 a week (median weekly earnings in their main job). This was an extra $52 a week, or 4.2 per cent more, compared with August 2022.

Median weekly earnings in August 2023 were $1,500 for men and $1,150 for women.

Median weekly full-time earnings were around $1,600 ($1,692 for men and $1,500 for women), while median weekly part-time earnings were $655 ($600 for men and $699 for women).

In the past year, median full-time earnings for men rose by $92 to $1,692 a week (up 5.8 per cent) and by $66 to $1,500 a week for women (up 4.6 per cent).

The occupations with the highest median weekly earnings for full-time workers in August 2023 were:

- Chief Executives, General Managers and Legislators - $2,800.
- Specialist Managers - $2,404.
- ICT Professionals - $2,237.

Occupations with the lowest median weekly earnings for full-time workers in August 2023 were:

- Sales Support Workers - $1,065
- Food Preparation Assistants - $1,100
- Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers - $1,100.

In addition to weekly earnings, the data also showed that median hourly earnings in August 2023 were $39.50, up from $37.00 in August 2022. Men earned $40.50, as a median hourly rate, compared with $38.20 for women.

Further details can be found in Employee earnings (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/employee-earnings/latest-release) available on www.abs.gov.au (http://www.abs.gov.au/) .

Leave entitlements

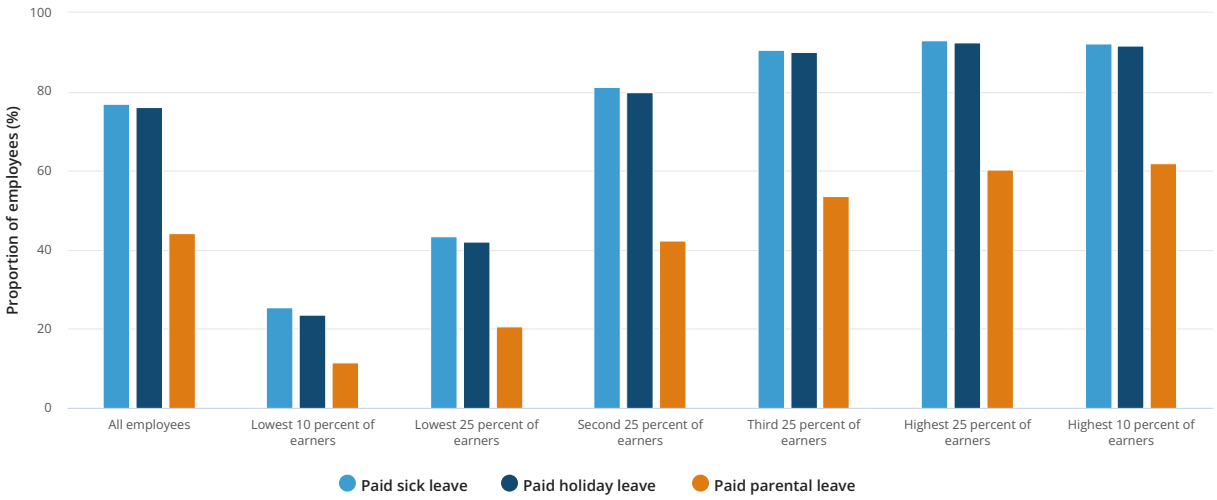
In August 2023, there were 2.7 million casual employees. These workers accounted for around 22.4 per cent of all employees, down from 23.7 per cent in August 2022 and 24.1 per cent in February 2020. This reflects much stronger growth in non-casual employment in recent years, in addition to the more pronounced impacts on casual employment during the pandemic.

The data also shows that casual employees are, in addition to being more likely to work part-time hours, also more likely to work in lower paid occupations and industries.

“In August 2023, most employees (92 per cent) who earned the median wage or more were entitled to paid sick leave or paid holiday leave. Over 50 per cent of these higher earning employees also had access to paid parental leave,” Mr Jarvis said.

“Of the lowest 25 per cent of earners, 44 per cent had access to paid sick leave or paid holiday leave, and 21 per cent were entitled to paid parental leave.”

Paid leave entitlements by lower and higher paid workers.



Further details can be found in Working arrangements (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-arrangements/latest-release) available on www.abs.gov.au (http://www.abs.gov.au/) .

Media notes

- Data from the Characteristics of employment survey can be found in the following pages on the ABS website:
    - Characteristics of employment (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/characteristics-employment-australia/latest-release)
    - Employee earnings (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release)
    - Working arrangements (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-arrangements/latest-release)
- Employees are the subset of employed people who worked for an employer and

received remuneration by wage, salary or otherwise.

- Casual employees used in this release are defined as employees without leave entitlements. Other measures of casual employment are also available from Working arrangements (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/working-arrangements/latest-release) .
- It is important to note that most casual employees can work or expect to work in their jobs for 12 months or longer. Casual employment should therefore not be assumed to be temporary employment.
- Median is a statistical term referring to the middle point of a distribution. In the case of earnings, it refers to the earnings of the person in the middle of the distribution, with the same number of people earning more and less than them. Unlike means or simple averages, medians are not skewed by very high and very low earners.
- Earnings are the pre-tax amount paid to employees for work done or time worked (including paid leave), and are a subset of employee income.
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